

NEWS RELEASE

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COMMISSIONERS PASS RESOLUTION ASKING GOVERNOR TO OPEN LAKE COUNTY

PAINESVILLE, OH, May 7, 2020 — At today's weekly meeting of the Lake County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Jerry C. Cirino proposed a Special Resolution requesting that Governor Dewine cancel previous directives and allow Lake County businesses deemed "non-essential" to begin operating by May 15th. While this Resolution carries no weight in law, it is a respectful request in recognition of the serious economic pain these directives are causing to the Lake County economy and so many of its citizens.

"We care deeply about the health and welfare of our community. As Commissioners, we work on this every day of the year", notes Cirino. "We certainly understand why the Governor took swift action to safeguard the health of Ohioans", he continued. "However, our hospital has empty beds and the curve has been flattened", he further noted.

The Special Resolution is intended to get the people of the county back to work and to give businesses in all categories a chance to recover from this unprecedented and self-imposed circumstance. It is the Commissioner's hope that restaurants, gyms, barber shops/beauty salons, and entertainment businesses can begin operating again although with appropriate regard for precautions such as distancing, masks, etc.

Like many other counties and cities around the state, Lake County is experiencing a severe reduction in revenue and will have to take extraordinary actions in order to continue providing necessary services for the county. "We have heard from businesses across the county that they just can't live with these restrictions any longer", notes Commissioner John Hamercheck. "People are losing their life savings and many will never reopen". "Community health is important", added Commissioner Ron Young, "but we also have to take into account the economic health of our community. Poor economic health leads to more suicides, increased drug overdoses, higher death rates, more crime and less hope for the future. It's time for Lake County to go back to work", he concluded.

This Special Resolution was adopted unanimously this morning and has been forwarded to the Governor and Lt. Governor along with the Director of Public Health.

Commissioner Cirino further commented that, “we are urging the Governor to open Lake County as a matter of necessity. We certainly have supported his efforts to keep Ohio healthy however, our constituents are pleading with us to help them avoid further destructive economic circumstances”. The Commissioners note that they are here to serve their community and to make the views of the community known to policy makers in Columbus.

For more information, please contact Commissioner Jerry C. Cirino at (216) 409-0383.